

WASHINGTON, DC—On, March 25, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) voted in favor of H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which passed the House by a vote of 285 to 140. This measure has been passed by the Senate and will soon be signed into law by President Obama. This bill, the most significant conservation bill passed by Congress in 15 years, expands our publically preserved land and ensures that it is properly managed and well protected. It will strengthen our National Park System as it nears its centennial anniversary, improve forest health, facilitate better management of our public lands through authorization of the National Landscape Conservation System, and increase the quantity and quality of water provided to numerous local communities.

“The protection of our environment is not just a moral or quality-of-life issue – it’s crucial to our country’s prosperity, health, and security,” said Congressman Sestak. “This measure will help us preserve the natural wonder of our Nation and will ensure that we will pass on to future generations one of our greatest inheritances as Americans. At the same time, this measure will create needed jobs in land management, conservation, recreation, tourism, and related fields and industries.”

The conservation designations in the bill will provide important economic benefits for economies across the United States. By providing jobs in recreation and tourism, increasing local property values, and providing attractive places for residents to live and work, wilderness designation provides significant benefits to local economies. Nationwide, outdoor recreation contributes \$730 billion to the U.S. economy, while supporting 6.5 million jobs.

Among its many provisions, this omnibus bill permanently codifies the National Landscape Conservation System; creates two million new acres of wilderness across 9 states; establishes 3 new national park units; designates 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers; designates a National Monument and 4 National Conservation Areas; protects world-class hunting land in the Wyoming Range; and recognizes new Historic Sites and Heritage Areas.

This bill is an authorization bill and does not appropriate any money from the federal treasury; it fully complies with the PAYGO rule.

This bipartisan bill is supported by numerous groups, including environmental groups, such as the League of Conservation Voters, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Society; hunting, angling, and

wildlife recreation groups, such as Trout Unlimited and National Trappers Association; and the Outdoor Industry Conservation Alliance.

Congressman Sestak has declared Energy and the Environment one of his pillars of national security and has made environmental and clean energy efforts a focus of his time in Congress:

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Energy Security and Independence

- Reduce global warming and lower energy costs by raising the CAFE standards for the first time in 32 years, make a historic commitment to bio-fuels and require 15% of electricity to come from renewable sources- voted for the Energy Independence and Security Act.
- Extend and expand tax credits that support alternative energy, including solar energy and wind power. In 2006, such efforts created 8.5 million jobs and \$970 billion in revenue- voted for the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act.
- End unnecessary subsidies to big oil companies and instead provide tax incentives to invest in clean, renewable energy- voted for the Renewable Energy and Conservation Act.

Global Warming and Clean Air

We must reduce emissions and support a clean energy future, while reengaging with the international community on limiting carbon dioxide emissions.

- Co-sponsored the Safe Climate Act, which decreases greenhouse gas emissions each year from 2010-2050 by 2% and provides regulations requiring reductions to meet such targets.
- Co-sponsored the Climate Stewardship Act, which accelerates the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States by establishing a market driven system of greenhouse gas tradeable allowances.
- Support the Climate Security Act, which caps greenhouse gas emissions from the electric generation, industrial, and transportation sectors- to reduce emissions to 15% below 2005 levels in 2020.

Clean Water

America's rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands are essential to our environment, health, economy and quality of life. That is why we must restore Clean Water Act protections to all of America's waterways.

- Co-sponsored the Clean Water Restoration Act, which restores the original intent of the Clean Water Act by preventing exclusion of certain bodies of water from environmental protections.

- Co-sponsored the Clean Water Protection Act, which expands the definition of pollutants to include anything that replaces portions of waters of the United States with dry land or that changes the bottom elevation of a water body for any purpose and anything discharged into water primarily to dispose of waste.

Conservation

America is home to some of the world's most stunning landscapes, lush wildlife and natural beauty. Unfortunately, too many of our natural wonders have been lost to logging, mining, and overdevelopment. Congress has a duty to pass legislation that protects the few remaining wild places in this country for future generations.

- Voted for the National Landscape Conservation System Act, which establishes the National Landscape Conservation System to protect significant national landscapes.
- Co-sponsored the National Parks Centennial Fund Act to establish an annual park fund of \$100 million.
- Co-sponsored the Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2007, to impose royalties on hardrock mining companies and mandate environmental protections.
- Support Appropriations funding for the Land Water Conservation Fund, to help preserve outdoor recreational resources.
- Support funding the Forest Legacy Program, to protect forests that might soon be cleared for agricultural or residential development.
- Support the Highlands Conservation Act to assist Pennsylvania conserve land.
- Support the codification of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule that protects 58.5 million acres of this country's last remaining wild national forests from new road-building and other commodity activities.
- Co-sponsored the Udall-Eisenhower Arctic Wilderness Act, which designates lands within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) as wilderness and components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

EFFORTS AT HOME:

- Secured \$250,000 in Federal Funding for Watershed Management Project: To begin the first step of a District-wide watershed management project to enhance watershed infrastructure, including work on culverts and sewers, as well as environmental restoration of Pennsylvania creeks, in the Seventh Congressional District. This is the first step of a comprehensive solution that will solve the many problems facing area watersheds, including the extensive flooding that this community has experienced from storms in recent years and pollution of local waterways, not only from companies that dump contaminants, but also from indirect runoff of pollutants such as oil from streets, and fertilizer and herbicides from lawns.
- Emergency Preparedness and Watershed Management Summit, Villanova University: Brought together federal, state, and local officials to address the serious threat of flooding our

communities face from improper watershed management, such as the 2004 flood that damaged approximately 500 houses and caused \$4 million in damage.

- Secured \$400,000 in Federal Funding for Clean Water in Bridgeport Borough: To separate their combined sewer system so that raw sewage is not released during heavy rain downpour.
- Secured \$500,000 for Hybrid Electric Buses: The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) will purchase 100, 40 foot, low floor alternative fuel hybrid (diesel/electric) powered buses. This will improve air quality in Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties.
- Three Environment and Energy Roundtables in the District and Washington: Held roundtable discussions on actions being taken in Congress to address prices, reduce dependency on oil, and expand the use of alternative energy sources. In Washington, brought together fifteen representatives from area small businesses involved in clean energy efforts – and fifteen businesses in Washington, DC with similar goals- to listen to their issues and ideas for how Congress can best assist them in their ongoing work to increase our energy and environmental security.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.

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